



Nature Notes

From Weymouth Woods

The Word on Birds



Dark-eyed Junco



Hermit Thrush



Yellow-rumped Warbler

Alongside the Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers and Ruby-crowned Kinglets that have already arrived for the winter, Dark-eyed Juncos, Hermit Thrushes, and Yellow-rumped Warblers will join the ranks. These three species will become quite common as the cooler November weather continues to bring birds south.

If you have feeders hanging in your yard, you won't even have to leave the comfort of your home to see the Dark-eyed Juncos. They are by nature primarily seed-eaters and spend much of their time on the ground, so they do a great job of cleaning up all the seed that has been knocked to the ground while other birds are feasting at the feeders.

Hermit thrushes also spend much of their time foraging on the ground, but not at your feeders. They are looking more for insects or berries in pine, broadleaf evergreen, or deciduous forests with a dense understory and berry bushes. The Holly Road and Pine Island trails at Weymouth Woods are great places to look for these winter visitors.

Yellow-rumped warblers are a little more versatile in the habitat they'll utilize, as long as they can find berries from plants such as wax myrtle, poison ivy, poison oak, greenbrier, grapes, Virginia creeper, or dogwood. You may find them at times in impressively large flocks, and can potentially be enticed to your feeders with sunflower seeds, raisins, peanut butter, or suet.



Creature Feature

~ Buck Moths ~

Among the hundreds of species of moths that inhabit North Carolina, the Buck Moth steps into the spotlight mid-fall. Cycling through only one generation each year, adult Buck moths typically don't emerge from their pupae until November in this area. Their appearance is quite striking with their bold black and white wings and the reddish-orange patch on the tip of males' abdomens. They are also

quite large with a wingspan of up to 3 inches. Beware earlier in the year though. The caterpillar of the buck moth is covered in multi-branched spines that can deliver an extremely painful sting. Their spiky appearance sends the message loud and clear to any predators: mess with me and you'll be sorry!

